

**COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS**

RANKING DEMOCRAT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE

**COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



**CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN CAUCUS**  
BOARD MEMBER

CHAIR  
TASK FORCE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CONGRESSIONAL KIDS SAFETY CAUCUS  
CO-CHAIR

<http://www.meng.house.gov>  
[www.facebook.com/repgracemeng](http://www.facebook.com/repgracemeng)  
Twitter: @repgracemeng

**Grace Meng**  
**Congress of the United States**  
**Sixth District, New York**

March 4, 2016

The Honorable John J. Flanagan  
New York State Senate Majority Leader  
State Capitol Building, Room 330  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
New York State Assembly Speaker  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senate Majority Leader Flanagan and Assembly Speaker Heastie:

I urge you to move swiftly on legislation to eliminate the New York State sales tax on feminine hygiene products. State legislatures around the country are considering similar bills that would remove the sales tax on these items. Just yesterday, Governor Cuomo made a public commitment to working with the New York State legislature on this issue.

In Congress, I have introduced legislation that would address one affordability concern by adding feminine hygiene products to the list of items that can be purchased with funds from a Flexible Spending Account. In addition, I recently convinced the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to add feminine hygiene products – such as tampons and pads – to the list of essential items that homeless assistance providers can purchase with federal grant funds from the agency's Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

New York State collects a 4% sales tax on tangible items of personal property, unless there are statutory exemptions. There is no current exemption for feminine hygiene products in New York State law. Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, Assemblyman David Weprin, State Senator Sue Serino, and State Senator Joseph Robach have all introduced legislation to create this exact tax exemption for feminine hygiene products. In New York City, Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras-Copeland has introduced a resolution calling on the State to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products as well.

As a woman and a legislator dedicated to making feminine hygiene products more accessible and affordable to women and girls, I urge you to work together and with Governor Cuomo to act

quickly on making this change. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress